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It may be so, but the thought will bring cold comfort to the man who finds no "commanding moral order" in his soul, and is haunted by a sickening doubt as to his being pure even in heart.

The reader who, on the other hand, possesses this minimum of faith, and who cares to accompany Dr. Bruce in his "pilgrimage through the ages," will find himself amply rewarded. The first five lectures deal with pagan thought as exemplified in Buddha, Zoroaster, the Greek Tragedians, Stories, and Oracles: the Hebrew Prophets, Job, and Christ, form the subject matter of the following three lectures; then, leaping over a gap of eighteen hundred years, Dr. Bruce interprets Browning, together with several writers whom he classes together as "Modern Dualists." The final lecture is devoted to a "retrospect and prospect."

The exposition of such widely diverging doctrines necessarily varies in merit, and Dr. Bruce is stronger, because more sympathetic, in his analysis of ancient than in that of modern thought. But all the lectures (except Lecture V.) will repay careful study, and should be compared with the summary statement of the strength and weakness of the various systems given in Lecture XII., pages 384-393. The one exception is Lecture V., on "Divination." The contrast here drawn between the Soothsayer and the Prophet is not only repeated, but very much better worked out, in the following lecture upon the "Hebrew Prophet." If Dr. Bruce had given us, instead of the obvious (comparatively speaking) commonplaces of this chapter, an analysis of *e. g.*, Plato, he would have added to the debt of gratitude we owe him for the remaining eleven chapters. The book is accompanied by an excellent index.

W. W. FAIRBROTHER.

LINCOLN COLLEGE, OXFORD.

AN ETHICAL SUNDAY-SCHOOL: A Scheme for the Moral Instruction of the Young. By Walter L. Sheldon, Lecturer of the Ethical Society of St. Louis; author of "An Ethical Movement." London: Swan, Sonnenschein & Co., Ltd. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1900.

The editor of *The Ethical Library* is to be congratulated upon this his latest issue. Whether we approach the book as students of modern movements or as disciples who would learn from a master, we shall equally be arrested and informed. The book is an account of an Ethical Sunday-school. It is written with

enthusiastic faith in the movement, with prolonged personal experience of the kind of work described, and with the modesty and frankness which real knowledge and faith are apt to produce. An Ethical Sunday-school is an attempt to teach young people the fundamentals of morality, by direct instruction in classes, apart from every-day school education, and apart from dogmatic religious instruction. The methods and matter employed in the St. Louis Ethical Sunday-school are described with great fullness, the failures and successes of nearly twelve years chronicled with engaging and instructive frankness.

To many the orthodox Sunday-school has become increasingly unsatisfactory, not only because of divergence of creed, but because the good boy of the Sunday-school is apt to be a pitiful prig, while the ineffectiveness of the most accurate knowledge of catechism, creed, or scripture, to influence conduct is daily demonstrated.

On the other hand it is contended with much truth that the boys and girls of our big cities often grow up with a painful absence of moral ideas and moral sentiments, while experienced teachers complain that the moral side of life is not emphasized enough in school teaching. Can the Ethical Movement with its moral instruction classes avoid the old grounds of error? Can it meet the expressed need? Or, is it making the old mistake in new form—the mistake that separated the sacred from the secular, that thought of the religious life as something apart from the everyday life of ordinary humanity? These questions will be differently answered by different minds. Mr. Sheldon's book should help all those who want to form a rational judgment in the matter.

MARY GILLILAND HUSBAND.

LONDON.

THE CITY FOR THE PEOPLE. By Frank Parsons. Philadelphia: C. F. Taylor, 1420 Chestnut street, 1900. Pp. 597.

This is a valuable book, published in cheap form, for circulation among municipal students. It is distinctly the joint product of the author and the publisher. Although encyclopædic in character and possessing an excellent index, it contains too much. The chapters on Proportional Representation and Direct Legislation have been recently elaborated and republished and make a thorough and useful treatment of these important themes, but as incor-